

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A malt fermented beverage which is liquors partly made of malt and having sparkling characteristic, the beverage being prepared by using a distillate of an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of wheat/barley as a part of starting materials of the beverage.

Claim 2 (Original): A malt fermented beverage comprising:  
an alcohol-containing material partly made of wheat/barley and produced by fermentation, serving as a component A; and  
an alcohol-containing distillate obtained by distilling an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of wheat/barley, serving as a component B,  
wherein the malt fermented beverage is produced by mixing the component A and the component B.

Claim 3 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein at least malt is used as a starting material for the alcohol-containing material of the component A.

Claim 4 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is made of at least malt, hop and water, and other starting materials as is necessary.

Claim 5 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 4, wherein the other starting materials are selected from the group consisting of rice, corn, sorghum, white potato, starch, sugars, wheat/barley other than malt, a bittering agent, and a coloring agent.

Claim 6 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is beer or a low-malt beer beverage.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~ claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 20% or higher.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~ claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 40% or higher.

Claim 9 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is shochu (Japanese distilled liquor), whisky, vodka, spirits, or raw material alcohol.

Claim 10 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein wheat/barley used as a starting material in the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is barley or wheat.

Claim 11 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is “mugi shochu” (shochu distilled from wheat/barley).

Claim 12 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is one that is distilled in a batch distiller.

Claim 13 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 11, wherein the mugi shochu is otsu-rui shochu.

Claim 14 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 13, wherein the mugi shochu is mugi shochu that is obtained from starting materials including wheat/barley, malted wheat/barley, and water.

Claim 15 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is one that is distilled in a continuous distiller.

Claim 16 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is wheat spirits.

Claim 17 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt

proportion of 100%, and the distillate of alcohol-containing material of the component B is otsu-rui mugi shochu.

Claim 18 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 40 to 60%, and the distillate of alcohol-containing material of the component B is wheat spirits.

Claim 19 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein an alcohol content of the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is from 25 to 45%.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein an alcohol content of the malt fermented beverage is from 1 to 15%.

Claim 21 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A and the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B are mixed in a volume ratio of 99.9:0.1 to 80:20.

Claim 22 (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 2, wherein a ratio between an alcohol content from the alcohol-containing material of the component A and an alcohol content from the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is in a range of 97.5:2.5 to 90:10.

Claim 23 (Original): A method of producing a malt fermented beverage, the beverage comprising:

an alcohol-containing material partly made of wheat/barley and produced by fermentation (named component A); and

an alcohol-containing distillate obtained by distilling an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of wheat/barley (named component B),

the method comprising mixing the component A and the component B to produce the malt fermented beverage.